



United States Attorney

Paul J. McNulty

United States Attorney

U.S. Department of Justice

Eastern District of Virginia

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Further Information Contact

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the indictment of six individuals resulting from a joint state and federal investigation into the distribution of crack cocaine in and around Prince Edward County, Virginia.

On July 20, 2005, a federal grand jury sitting in Richmond, Virginia returned an indictment against Bobby Johnson, age 25; Myron Johnson, age 21; Rodney Langhorne, age 29; and William Murchinson, age 20. They are charged with conspiracy to distribute at least 50 grams of crack cocaine from January 1, 2005 to July 18, 2005. If convicted, they will face a mandatory minimum of ten years imprisonment, a maximum of life, and a fine of up to \$4 million. In a separate indictment, the same grand jury returned charges against Donnie Hill, age 19; and Phillip Hill, age 21, charging them with conspiracy to distribute at least five grams of crack cocaine from December 1, 2004, to February 28, 2005. If convicted, they will face a mandatory minimum of five years imprisonment, a maximum of 40 years, and a fine of up to \$2 million.

To date, authorities have arrested Bobby Johnson, Myron Johnson, Donnie Hill, Phillip Hill, and Rodney Langhorne, and all have been held without bond. During a search warrant executed in connection with the arrests, authorities recovered several ounces of suspected crack cocaine, a quantity of suspected marijuana, a significant sum of U.S. currency, and several firearms.

Mr. McNulty stated: "These indictments and subsequent arrests are part of a concentrated and coordinated effort by federal, state, and local authorities to stem the flow of drugs in and around Prince Edward County, Virginia. They reflect the continued commitment of the U.S. Attorney's Office to reach out to all areas of the Commonwealth to support and assist them in the fight against the drug trade."

Also announcing the indictments are: James Gregorius, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); John P. Malone, Special Agent-in-Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Washington Field Office; Colonel Steven Flaherty, Superintendent, Virginia State Police; Chief Stuart Dunnavant, Farmville Police Department; Sheriff Claude Meinhard, Cumberland County Sheriff's Department; Sheriff T.D. Harris, Jr., Prince Edward County Sheriff's Department; and James R. Ennis, Commonwealth's Attorney for Prince Edward County.

These cases are being investigated by agents of the DEA, ATF, Virginia State Police, the Farmville Police Department, and the Cumberland and Prince Edward County Sheriff's Departments, and are being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Matthew C. Ackley, an Assistant to the Attorney General of Virginia.

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